

**REQUEST
FOR
CONTINUED EXAMINATION (RCE)**

Subsection (b) of 35 U.S.C. § 132, effective on May 29, 2000,

Provides for continued examination of a utility or plant

Application filed on or after June 8, 1995.

See The American Inventors Protection Act of 1999 (AIPA)

AUG 09 2004

Application Number: 09/688,268
Filing Date: October 13, 2000
First Named Inventor: J. Bruce Mixer, Jr.
Group Art Unit: 2122
Examiner Name: James D. Rutten
Attorney Docket Number: BLD9-2000-0058US1
CUSTOMER NO.: 27623

This is a Request for Continued Examination (RCE) Under 37 C.F.R. § 1.114 of the above-identified application.

Note: 37 C.F.R. § 1.114 is effective on May 29, 2000. If the above-identified application was filed prior to May 29, 2000, applicant may wish to consider filing a continued prosecution application (CPA) under 37 C.F.R. § 153 (d) (PTO/SB/29) instead of RCE to be eligible for the patent term adjustment provisions of the AIPA. See Changes to Application Examination and Provisional Application Practice, Final Rule, 65 Fed. Reg. 50092 (August 16, 2000); Interim Rule, 65 Fed. Reg. 14865 (March 20, 2000), 1233 Off. Gaz. Pat. Office 47 (Apr. 11, 2000), which established RCE practice.

1. Submission required under 37 C.F.R. § 1.114

a. XXXXX Previously submitted

i. XXXXX Consider the amendment(s)/reply under 37 C.F.R. 1.116 previously filed on May 10, 2004 (any unentered amendment(s) referred to above will be entered).

ii. _____ Consider the arguments in the Appeal Brief or Reply Brief previously filed filed on _____

iii. _____ Other _____

b. XXXXX Enclosed

i. _____ Amendment/Reply

ii. _____ Affidavit(s)/Declaration(s)

iii. _____ Information Disclosure Statement (IDS) and PTO-1449

iv. XXXXX Request for Extension of Time.

2. Miscellaneous

a. _____ Suspension of action on the above-identified application is requested under 37 C.F.R. § 1.103(c) for a period of _____ months. (Period of suspension shall not exceed 3 months; Fee under 37 C.F.R. § 1.17(i) required)

b. _____ Other _____

3. Fees The RCE fee Under 37 C.F.R. § 1.17(e) is required by 37 C.F.R. § 1.114 when the RCE is filed.

a. _____ The Director is hereby authorized to charge the following fees, or credit any overpayments to Deposit Account No. **01-0467**.

i. _____ RCE fee (\$770.00) required under 37 C.F.R. § 1.17(e)

ii. _____ Extension of Time fee (37 C.F.R. §§ 1.136 and 1.17)

iii. _____ Other _____

b. XXXXX A check in the amount of **\$1,720.00** for the RCE fee (\$770.00) and the three-month extension of time fee (\$950.00) is enclosed.

c. _____ Payment by credit card (Form PTO-2038 enclosed)

August 6, 2004

Date of Signature

08/10/2004 JBALINAM 00000124 09688268

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770.00 OP


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CERTIFICATE OF MAILING

I hereby certify that this correspondence is being deposited with the U.S. Postal Service as first class mail in an envelope addressed to: Mail Stop RCE, Commissioner for Patents, P.O. Box 1450, Alexandria, VA 22313-1450 on **August 6, 2004**.

JEFFREY J. SCEPANSKI
NAME


SIGNATURE

08/06/2004
DATE